

Programme EMS Excellence Day Future of Work 2025



Faculty of Economic and
Management Sciences
Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe
Lefapha la Disaense tša Ekonomi le Taolo

Make today matter

Event Details

Date: 30 May 2025 | **Time:** 08:00 – 19:30 | **Venue:** Sanlam Auditorium | **MC:** Dr Olebogeng Selebi

| Time | Session |
|-------------|---|
| 08:00-08:40 | Coffee and registration |
| 08:40-08:45 | Welcome by Prof Margaret Chitiga-Mabugu , Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of Pretoria |
| 08:45-09:00 | Remarks by Prof Sunil Maharaj : Vice-Principal: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education, University of Pretoria |
| 09:00-10:00 | <p>Panel discussion: Future-proofing graduates: Digital literacy for employability and organisational agility</p> <p>Chair: Dr Olebogeng Selebi</p> <p>Panellists: Dr Sean Kruger – Senior Researcher, Centre for the Future of Work Dr Sean Kruger is a leading scholar and practitioner in the Future of Work, digital transformation, 4IR, innovation ecosystems, and workforce competency development. His research and advisory work explore the integration of AI, automation, blockchain, and emerging technologies to drive employability, economic resilience, and human-centric innovation through human-AI collaboration.</p> <p>Prof Lindelani Mnguni – Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Pretoria (UP) Professor Lindelani Mnguni is an NRF-rated researcher (C2) and Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Pretoria. Previously he served as the Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand and Director of the School of Teacher Education at Unisa where he was awarded the Principal's Award for Excellence in Research. Mnguni completed his PhD in Curriculum and Instructional Design from the University of Pretoria, along with an MSc, BSc Honours and BSc in biochemistry and genetics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.</p> <p>Ms Thembi Myeni – Head of Digital Learning, Experience Design, Nedbank Thembi Myeni is the Head of Digital Learning and Experience Design at Nedbank. Her background is in accounting, and that is where she started her career as an auditor at Deloitte. Her experience spans across Consulting, Financial Advisory and Auditing. She holds a Master's in Personal and Professional Leadership from the University of Johannesburg and leverages her learning in this field in her work as a professional coach and mentor.</p> <p>Thembi also holds a Master's in the Management of Technology and Innovation from the Da Vinci Institute and this is where her passion for people and learning met her curiosity for technology. She is currently a Doctoral candidate specialising in the Management of Technology and Innovation at the Da Vinci Institute, researching the motivating factors that drive individual choices in learning topics, modalities and funding options.</p> <p>Her passion for all things people, learning, digital and future studies is evident in the work that she does to leverage technology to enhance employee learning experiences and as a result improve the capability outcomes for organisations.</p> |



| Time | Session |
|-------------|---|
| 10:00-11:15 | <p>Session 1: Current or past research on the Future of Work</p> <p><i>Chair: Dr Daphne Pillay-Naidoo</i></p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sean Kruger – <i>Department of Business Management</i>: Bridging the divide: Hard skills, vocational pathways, and the role of community care centres in shaping youth futures ■ Charisa de Klerk – <i>Department of Financial Management</i>: Thinking critically, questioning sceptically: Is there a correlation between these traits? ■ Bianca Frost – <i>Department of Marketing Management</i>: Should marketers use AI for marketing communications? Exploring perceptions of credibility and authenticity of AI-generated content ■ Elize Kirsten – <i>Department of Financial Management</i>: Perspectives on management accountants' potential use of business intelligence & analytics to enhance business decision-making ■ Martha Harunavamwe – <i>Department of Human Resource Management</i>: STARA competencies, technostress and job insecurity: The role of digital creativity ■ Jessika Bohlmann – <i>Dean's Office/Department of Economics</i>: The employment effects of greening the South African economy ■ Andrew van der Burgh – <i>Department of Accounting</i>: Real conversations, virtual colleagues: Using AI chatbots to develop future-ready accounting graduates |
| 11:15-11:45 | Coffee break |
| 11:45-13:00 | <p>Session 2: Teaching, case studies, or other initiatives that consider the Future of Work</p> <p><i>Chair: Prof Onkgopotse Madumo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stephen Coetzee and Astrid Schmulian – <i>Department of Accounting</i>: AI-generated textbooks: Revolutionizing accounting education for the future of work ■ Hanneke du Preez – <i>Department of Taxation</i>: The South African Tax Clinic project ■ Theresa van Oordt – <i>Department of Accounting</i>: Partnering with practice: Designing integrated assessments with industry to build future-ready CAs ■ Bernice Beukes – <i>Department of Auditing</i>: Building self-regulated learners: A gamified approach to real-world knowledge application in clickUP ■ Kwena Maseko – <i>Department of Accounting</i>: Ethics education within the accounting context: A systematic literature review ■ Stellah Lubinga – <i>School of Public Management and Administration</i>: Leveraging custom GPT tutors to enhance teaching practice and learner engagement ■ Dineo Movundlela – <i>Department of Auditing</i>: Assessing communication skills of accounting students |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |



| Time | Session |
|-------------|--|
| 14:00-15:00 | <p>Session 3: Future research on the Future of Work</p> <p><i>Chair: Dr Sean Kruger</i></p> <p><i>Researchers from EMS will have an opportunity to pitch their future research in 5 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lindelwa Ngwenya – <i>Department of Economics</i>: Taxing digital nomads – ins and out of taxation ▪ Geraldo Jansen – <i>Department of Taxation</i>: The evolving skillset for tax professionals in a digitally disrupted world ▪ Blanche Steyn – <i>Department of Auditing</i>: AI and automation: How will the workday change? ▪ Charisa de Klerk – <i>Department of Financial Management</i>: Designing the future-ready CA: Integrating business acumen across the curriculum ▪ Tyanai Masiya – <i>School of Public Management and Administration</i>: Actors addressing youth homelessness in City of Tshwane (South Africa) and City of San Diego (USA): Challenges, opportunities, and policy implications ▪ Ben van der Merwe – <i>Department of Business Management</i>: From answers to thinking: Interrogating postgraduate assessment in an AI age ▪ Camille Castelyn – <i>Department of Business Management</i>: Knell and Ruther's humanistic approach: In the age of super efficiency, what is the meaning of life and could it mean the end of work? ▪ Adrino Mazenda – <i>School of Public Management and Administration</i>: Green jobs for youth in a just food systems transition in Africa: Case of Eastern Cape and Gauteng provinces, South Africa ▪ Pieter Conradie – <i>Department of Business Management</i>: Using AI in the process of conscientisation of leadership students |





| Time | Session |
|-------------|---|
| 15:00-16:00 | <p>Panel discussion: Curriculum relevance and career readiness: Preparing EMS graduates to meet evolving employer expectations</p> <p>Chair: Prof Elda du Toit</p> <p>Panellists: Mr Willem van der Post – Founder at xTech.Capital Co-Founder at simple.Capital Willem van der Post is a South African chartered accountant and entrepreneur. He is an alumnus of University of Stellenbosch, University of South Africa, Singularity University in California, and Harvard. He is also a fellow of the HBS fellowship of technology, innovation and leadership.</p> <p>Willem founded xTech Capital and simple.Capital – both venture capital investment firms which specialise in early-stage opportunities, predominantly in the United States. Before establishing the venture firms, Willem served as the managing partner for Deloitte Africa - Center for the Edge, and before that he was an audit partner at Deloitte, specialising in financial services.</p> <p>Mr Gcebile Madungandaba – KPMG South Africa Gcebile Madungandaba is an alumnus of the University of Pretoria and a Senior Advisor at KPMG's Deal Advisory team, with a focus on strategic transactions and financial analysis. He is a Chartered Global Management Accountant with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, a Certified Financial Modelling and Valuation Analyst and a Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert. He holds a Master of Management in Finance and Investments.</p> <p>Mr John O'Connor – Founder and former Group CEO of ARCH Impact Group John O'Connor is the founder of ARCH Impact Group, a South African social enterprise dedicated to igniting large-scale transformation across underserved communities. Since establishing Arch in 2001, John led the organisation's mission to advance socio-economic development through targeted skills development, talent management and impact-driven solutions. His work has focused on bridging education, workforce readiness and industry needs through innovative national and sectoral partnerships. For instance, at ICoTE '24, John presented on "The design and development of a jobs-focused, and demand-led National skills and employment institute in South Africa", sharing his vision and strategic insights on building a workforce development system that responds to the realities of the South African labour market.</p> |
| 16:00-16:30 | Coffee break |



| Time | Session |
|-------------|--|
| 16:30-17:15 | <p>Panel discussion: EMS cross-disciplinary research funding: The politics of energy poverty</p> <p>Chair: Dr Stellah Lubinga</p> <p><i>Discussion of the EMS-funded cross disciplinary project headed by Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz.</i></p> <p>Panellists: Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz – Department of Economics, University of Pretoria (UP) Prof Roula Inglesi-Lotz is a leading expert in energy economics at UP, specialising in energy policy, just energy transition, and socio-economic impacts. She has an extensive publication record and editorial contributions in top journals. In 2024, she won the HERS-SA and SANEA Upliftment through Education Awards. She holds a C1 NRF rating and serves as Vice President of Membership and Affiliate Affairs at the International Association for Energy Economics. She co-leads the EMS Energy Economics Research Unit at UP and has held leadership roles at the South African Young Academy of Science and the Global Young Academy.</p> <p>Dr Jessika Bohlmann – EMS Dean's Office, University of Pretoria (UP) Dr Jessika Bohlmann is currently appointed as Research Specialist in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at UP and is part of the team at the Energy Economic Research Unit (EERU) in the Department of Economics at UP. She is further contracted as Managing Editor and Special Issues Editor of Elsevier's Energy Policy journal, and as Research Consultant for the Modelling and Policy Impact Analysis group at the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP). Dr Bohlmann holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pretoria. Her academic and contract work mainly focuses on energy and environmental policy, and sectoral economic impact analysis using both computable general equilibrium and econometric modelling methods.</p> <p>Ms WiZelle Kritzinger – Department of Economics, University of Pretoria (UP) WiZelle Kritzinger is an Economics master's student at UP, funded by the Doug Banks Renewable Energy Vision Scholarship Trust. She is also a research assistant for the EMS Faculty's Transdisciplinary Project on Energy Poverty. Her research focuses on energy and environmental economics, particularly energy poverty, its causes, and consequences. She holds a bachelor's and honours degree in Economics from UP and has presented her work at international conferences, including the 45th International Association for Energy Economists Conference and the 8th Italian Association of Energy Economists Energy Symposium.</p> |
| 17:15-17:30 | <p>Prizes and closing remarks Chairs: Prof Karin Barac and Prof Theuns Steyn</p> <p><i>Feedback form, vote of thanks and prize giving</i></p> <p><i>Prizes:</i> <i>Prize for attendance</i> <i>Lucky draw for Session 1 Presenters</i> <i>Lucky draw for Session 2 Presenters</i> <i>Prize for Elevator Pitch participants</i></p> |
| 17:30-18:30 | Cocktail function |
| 18:30-19:30 | EMS Awards ceremony |